

## REMARKS

### Introductory Comments

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the above amendments and foregoing arguments is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 2 are pending and under consideration. Claim 2 has been amended. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

The Examiner has withdrawn the objection to claim 2, the rejections of claim 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs and the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a). The Examiner also indicated allowance of claim 1. Applicants express their appreciation for the withdrawal of these objections and rejections and the allowance of claim 1.

### Rejection of Claim 2 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by EMBL/NCBI Accession Number X96526.

Applicants have amended claim 2 to recite the exact claim language as recited in claim 1 and further reciting "an immunoreactive portion, said immunoreactive portion is contained within said amino acid sequence of Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO: 61)".

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by EMBL/NCBI Accession Number X96526.

## CONCLUSION

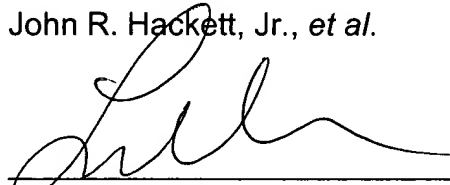
Applicants respectfully submit that the claims comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. Sections 101, 112, 102 and 103. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is believed in order and is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the above, she is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below. If the Examiner notes any further matters which the Examiner believes may be expedited by a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned.

If any additional fees are incurred as a result of the filing of this paper, authorization is given to charge deposit account no. 23-0785.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Hackett, Jr., *et al.*



Lisa V. Mueller  
Registration No. 38,978  
Attorney for Applicants

Wood, Phillips, Katz, Clark & Mortimer  
500 West Madison Street  
Suite 3800  
Chicago, IL 60662-2511

Tel.: (312) 876-2109

Fax.: (312) 876-2020

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